PART FOUR OF FOUR
BATMAN
TEN NIGHTS OF THE BEAST
STARLIN • APARO • DECARLO
75¢
420
JUNE 88
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
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DAY 9, 11:15 P.M. THE OFFICE OF AMBROSE DEARLING, ENGINEER.
AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THE SIGN OUT FRONT HIS SHOP SAYS. THE TRUTH, THOUGH, IS THAT DEARLING'S SPECIALTY WAS MANUFACTURING CUSTOM MADE WEAPONS FOR ANYONE WHO COULD COME UP WITH THE RIGHT PRICE.
MY GUESS IS, AMBROSE'S LAST CUSTOMER WAS ONE ANATOLI KHYAZEV, A.K.A. THE KGBEAST.
THE BEAST NEEDED A NEW HAND. HE LOST HIS OLD ONE FIGHTING ME THREE DAYS AGO. THIS IS WHERE HE WOULD HAVE COME FOR A REPLACEMENT.
UNFORTUNATELY, I FIGURED THAT OUT TOO LATE TO HELP AMBROSE.

TEN NIGHTS OF THE BEAST PART 4

JIM STARLIN · writer
JIM APARO · penciler
MIKE DeCARLO · inker
JOHN COSTANZA · letterer
ADRIENNE ROY · colorist
DENNY O'NEIL · editor

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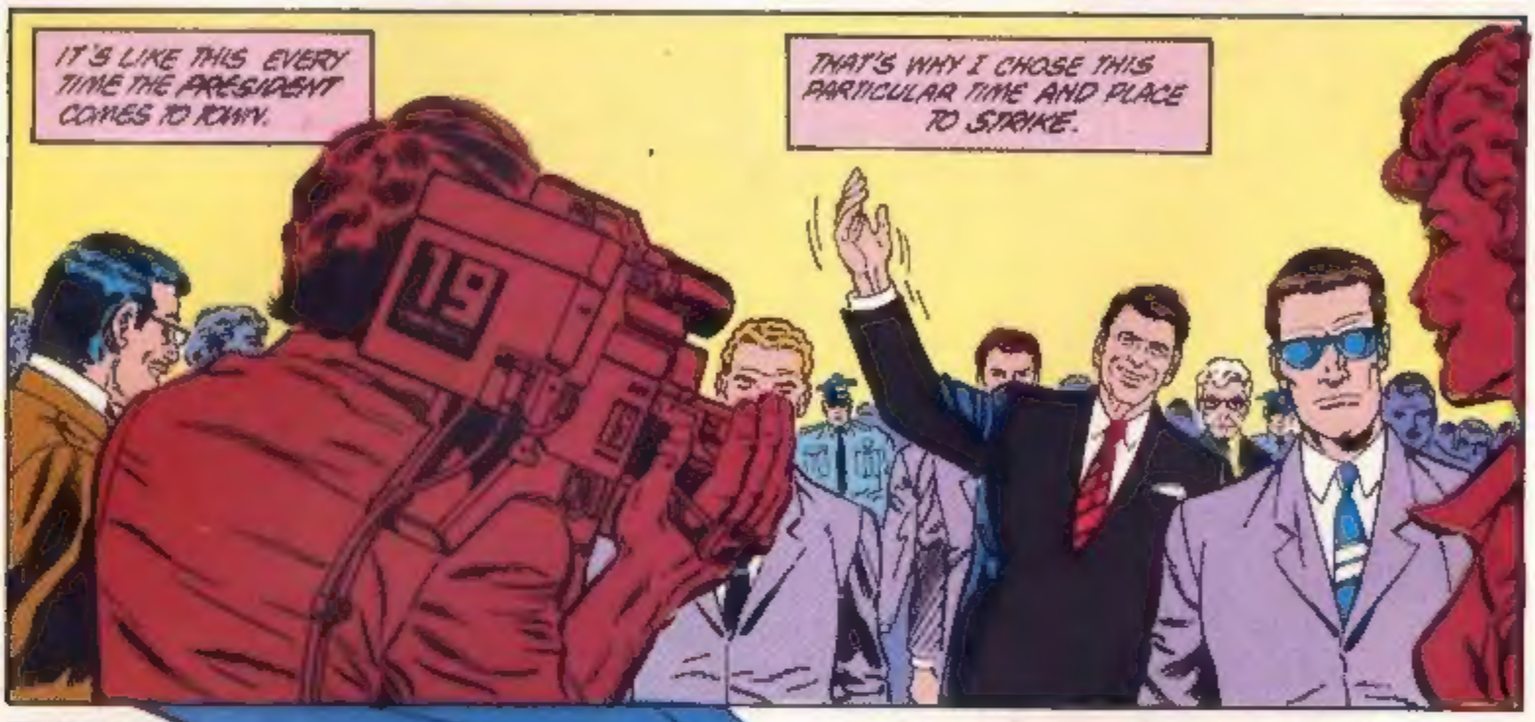
DAY 10, 8:55 A.M. GOTHAM AIRPORT.
GOTHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRANSCONTINENTAL AIRLINES
EVERYONE'S CROWDING OUTSIDE THE TERMINAL -- REPORTERS, COPS, SECRET SERVICE AGENTS, PASSERSBY.


IT'S LIKE THIS EVERY TIME THE PRESIDENT COMES TO TOWN.
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE THIS PARTICULAR TIME AND PLACE TO STRIKE.

NO ONE SEES ME COMING.
THE SECRET SERVICE AGENTS ARE LOOKING FOR GROUND LEVEL TROUBLE.
FORTUNATELY, GORDON AND HIS MEN KNOW WHAT I'M UP TO.

THEY'LL RUN INTERFERENCE FOR ME.
THE ONLY WAY TO ENSURE REAGAN'S SAFETY IN GOTHAM CITY IS FOR ME TO KIDNAP HIM.
OF COURSE, WE DIDN'T BOTHER TO INFORM FBI AGENT PARKER ABOUT THIS...YET.
HALT! OR I'LL SHOOT!
I WARNED YOU...
KBLAM
SORRY, SLIPPED...
I APOLOGIZE FOR THIS UNORTHODOX PROCEDURE, MR. PRESIDENT.
I TAKE IT I'M BEING KIDNAPPED?
NO, SIR. YOU'RE BEING ESCORTED TO YOUR HOTEL.
I BELIEVE YOU KNOW CIA AGENT RALPH BUNDY.
I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON FOR THIS STUNT, SON.
JUST TRYING TO KEEP YOU ALIVE, SIR.
3

YOU AND YOUR MEN HELPED BATMAN KIDNAP THE PRESIDENT, DIDN'T YOU?!
THAT'S RIGHT.
DOING IT YOUR WAY WOULD HAVE GOTTEN REAGAN KILLED.
YOU STILL THINK THE SECURITY LEAK'S COMING FROM MY GROUP!?
YOU'RE GOING TO PAY DEARLY FOR THIS MOVE, GORDON!
I DOUBT IT.
I DEMAND TO KNOW WHERE YOU'VE GOT THE PRESIDENT STASHED!
THE PRESIDENTIAL SUITE AT THE COMMODORE, JUST AS PLANNED...
...BUT WE GOT HIM THERE WITHOUT ANY BULLET HOLES.
DAY 10, 10:10 A.M. THE HOTEL COMMODORE.
THE KGBEAST IS A SUPER-ASSASSIN, RUSSIAN TRAINED.
BUT THE RUSSIANS CLAIM HE'S GONE RENEGADE ON THEM, ON AN ASSIGNMENT THEY DIDN'T AUTHORIZE. THAT'S WHY THEY'VE WARNED US ABOUT HIM.
THE BEAST PLANS TO KILL TEN KEY PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE, THE STAR WARS PROGRAM.
HE HOPES THESE DEATHS WILL CRIPPLE THE PROGRAM, BRINGING AN END TO IT.
UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THIS VENTURE SO FAR. WE'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO SAVE TWO OF THE NINE PEOPLE HE'S MARKED FOR DEATH.
THE BEAST HAS BEEN VICIOUS IN ACHIEVING HIS ENDS, MURDERING MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE SINCE COMING TO GOTHAM.
4

YOURS IS THE LAST NAME ON THE BEAST'S HIT LIST, MR. PRESIDENT.
THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL ESCAPE DEATH IS BY GOING ALONG WITH MY PLAN.
NONSENSE!
WE CAN INSURE MR. REAGAN'S SAFETY WITHOUT YOUR UNWANTED INTERFERENCE
NOT FROM WHAT I HEAR FROM AGENT BUNDY.
IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE BATMAN'S UNWANTED INTERFERENCE THAT SENATOR DAYLE IS STILL ALIVE
I UNDERSTAND YOUR POOR JUDGMENT NEARLY GOT THE MAN KILLED.
I LIKE TO DEPEND ON PROFESSIONALS.
FROM MOST ACCOUNTS, YOU'RE THE BEST AT WHAT YOU DO.
WE'LL GO ALONG WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS.
THEN HERE'S THE PLAN. AT 6:10 P.M. WE'LL...
...TAKE THE PRESIDENT TO THE ROOF. A CHOPPER WILL BE WAITING TO TAKE HIM TO THE CONVENTION CENTER.
EXCELLENT! WE'LL PLAN OUR MOVES ACCORDINGLY.
5

THEY'LL BE COMING OUR WAY, SALARI. 6:10 P.M.
ALL WILL BE IN ORDER.
THE KING OF THE CAPITALIST PIGS DIES TONIGHT!
NOW THAT WE'VE FINALLY GOTTEN RID OF AGENT PARKER, I CAN TELL YOU HOW WE'RE REALLY GOING TO TRANSPORT YOU TO THE CONVENTION CENTER, SIR.
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE SOMEONE IN PARKER'S GROUP IS THE TRAITOR WHO'S BEEN SUPPLYING THE BEAST WITH INFO ON HIS VICTIMS?
YES, SIR.
IN FACT, I NOW KNOW EXACTLY WHO THE INSIDE MAN IS.
I'M GOING TO ARRANGE FOR HIM TO BE WITH ME WHEN I DELIVER YOU TO THE CENTER.
I'M SURE THAT'S WHERE THE BEAST WILL STRIKE WHEN HIS INITIAL ASSAULT FAILS.
DAY 10, 6:01 P.M.
YOU CAN TELL THE PRESIDENT THAT THE CHOPPER'S HERE.
Com
6

STILL NO LEADS ON THE BEAST'S WHEREABOUTS, EH?
NO, CAME ACROSS A DEAD ARMS MERCHANT THE BEAST OBVIOUSLY DEALT WITH, BUT THE TRAIL ENDED THERE.
YOU KNOW THAT THE BEAST WILL WALK IF WE TAKE HIM ALIVE.
OF COURSE. IT'LL BE DISCOVERED THAT HIS NAME IS ON THE LIST OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY. HE'LL BE GRANTED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY.
THAT'S RIGHT, THE RUSSIANS WILL TAKE HIM HOME, SCRUB HIS MIND, AND MAKE A GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER OF HIM AGAIN.
SIX MONTHS FROM NOW, MY MEN WILL BE FACING HIM AGAIN IN SOMEPLACE LIKE AFGHANISTAN OR ANGOLA.
HE'LL NOT SPEND A SINGLE DAY IN JAIL FOR KILLING ALL THOSE PEOPLE.
ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?
I SEE THEM!
THEY'RE COMING OUT ONTO THE ROOF!
GOOD LUCK, MY FRIEND.
7

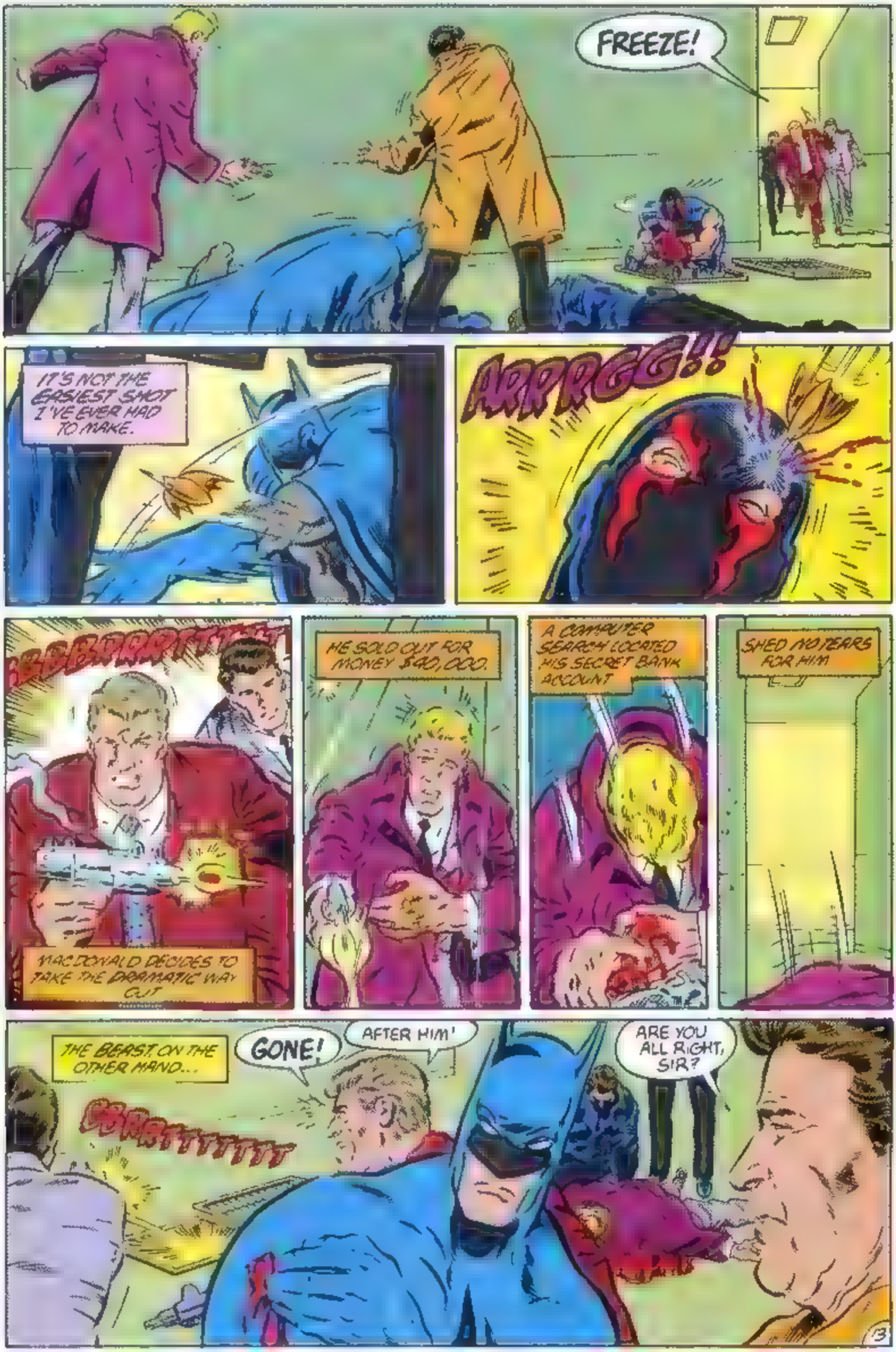
DAY 10. 6:10 A.M.
EVERYTHING'S GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN.
BUT THE TRIP ACROSS THE ROOF TO THE HELICOPTER SEEMS TO TAKE FOREVER.
A SHARP-EYED COP SPOTS HIM FIRST.
LOOK!
...OVER ON THE CRAIGMORE BUILDING!
SUICIDE MISSION.
ENOUGH DYNAMITE TO BLOW THE ENTIRE ROOF OFF THE HOTEL.

BLAM
GET DOWN, SIR!
9

WHUT
ROBIN ONLY GETS ONE CHANCE TO KNOCK THE ASSASSIN OFF COURSE
HE DOESN'T WASTE THE OPPORTUNITY
SALARI AND SOME WINDOWS ARE THE ONLY FATALITIES
A FINE JOB, LAD
THANK YOU MR PRESIDENT.
MR PRESIDENT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!
I'M FIT AS A FIDDLE, PARKER. HOW ARE YOU?
GORDON!!
WHERE'S THE PRESIDENT?!

DAY 10, 6:35 P.M. THE REAR ENTRANCE TO GOTHAM'S CONVENTION CENTER.
WELL, WE MADE IT
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ASKED ME ALONG.
AND WHY YOU REQUESTED I NOT INFORM AGENT PARKER ABOUT IT.
BECAUSE PARKER'S GOT A LEAK IN HIS ORGANIZATION. BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'RE IT
I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU I LIKED THE WAY YOU HANDLED YOURSELF THE OTHER DAY
WE'LL TAKE THE PRESIDENT THROUGH THE BASEMENT ENTRANCE.
YOU TAKE UP A POSITION, HERE AT THE DOOR
SURE THING.
I CAN FEEL HIS EYES ON MY BACK.
IT'S LIKE TURNING YOUR BACK ON A COBRA
HE SHOULD BE GOING FOR HIS GUN, RIGHT ABOUT NOW
11

DEPEND ON THE BEAST TO COME AT US FROM AN UN-EXPECTED DIRECTION
HE SPRINGS OUT OF A SEWER GRATE LIKE SOME EVIL JACK-IN-THE-BOX
THE BEAST'S AIM IS PERFECT. HE GOES FOR THE HEART.
FWP
FWP
IN HIS OWN WAY, HE'S VERY PREDICTABLE
I'VE OVERESTIMATED MACDONALD. HE'S NERVOUS. HIS SECOND SHOT GOES WILD AND CATCHES ME IN THE SHOULDER
THE SAME SHOULDER THE BEAST WOUNDED FOUR DAYS AGO.
MY HEAD'S SPINNING FROM THE PAIN.
CAN'T MAKE MY MOVE UNTIL JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT
HEY! HE'S STILL ALIVE!
BUT I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME!
THEN KILL HIM.
WHILE I TAKE CARE OF THIS OLD FOOL!
BUNDY, WHERE ARE YOU?

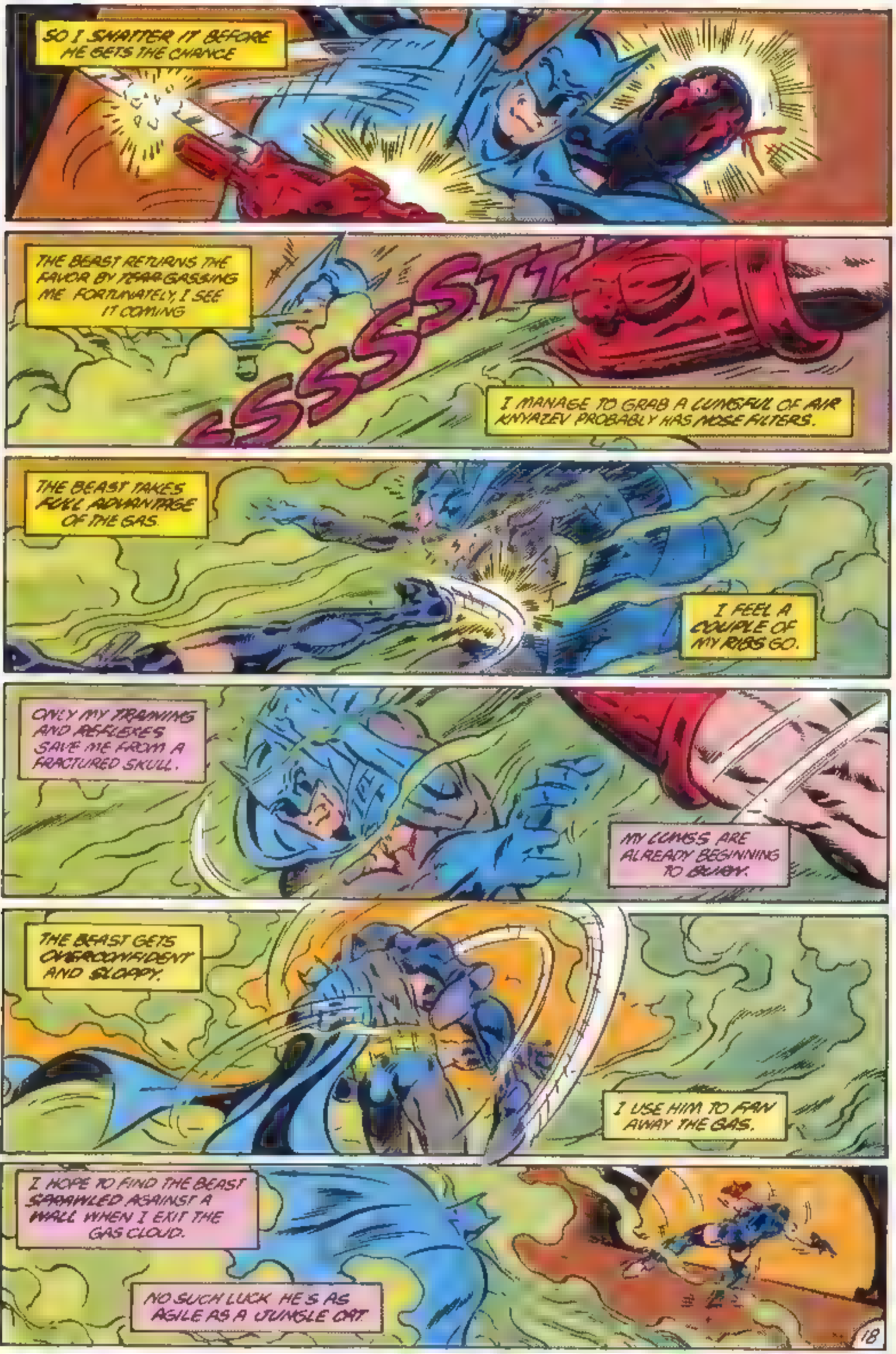

FREEZE!
IT'S NOT THE EASIEST SHOT I'VE EVER HAD TO MAKE.
ARRRGG!!
MACDONALD DECIDES TO TAKE THE DRAMATIC WAY OUT
HE SOLD OUT FOR MONEY $40,000.
A COMPUTER SEARCH LOCATED HIS SECRET BANK ACCOUNT
SHED NO TEARS FOR HIM
THE BEAST ON THE OTHER HAND...
GONE!
AFTER HIM!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SIR?
13

GOOD THING WE ALL HAD BULLET-PROOF VESTS ON.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT HELPED YOUR SHOULDER ANY, BATS
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT RIGHT NOW
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
AFTER THE BEAST
BUT YOU'RE WOUNDED, SIR!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PROVE?
NOTHING
THEN LET MY MEN HANDLE HIM!
YOUR MEN ARE PROBABLY ALREADY DEAD.
IT'S NOT HARD TO TRACK THIS BEAST
HE'S WOUNDED
HE'S LEAVING A CRIMSON TRAIL FOR ME TO FOLLOW
HE'S ALSO MARKING HIS PASSING WITH DEAD CIA AGENTS.
14

THE TRAIL KEEPS LEADING DEEPER INTO THE BOWELS OF THE CITY
HAVE TO TAKE IT EXTREMELY EASY FROM HERE ON
I'M NOT ALONE DOWN HERE
DEATH'S WAITING FOR ME.
THE BEAST KNOWS I'LL BE COMING FOR HIM
IF I WERE HIM, I'D SET UP AN AMBUSH
I HEAR THE SLIGHT SOUND OF LEATHER BRUSHING AGAINST CONCRETE
FIP
FIP
I MOVE
FIP FIP FIP FIP
FIP
15

WHUMP
THE DYING DEAD MAN MANEUVER BUYS ME A HALF SECOND
HAVE TO PUT THAT GUN OUT OF ACTION
FLIP
THEN THE BEAST TURNS THE TABLES ON ME
SUCKERED BY MY OWN TRICK
I'M DEAD, UNLESS..
JAMMED
MY KICK JAMMED THE AMMO CLIP
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP THE BEAST
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH HIS BAYONET
6

I CLOSE IN, SO HE CAN'T USE THE BLADE EFFECTIVELY
BUT THIS CLOSE-RANGE BRUTALITY IS MORE THAN EITHER OF US CAN TAKE
WE BREAK OFF THE ENCOUNTER, WHEEZING LIKE A COUPLE OF OLD MEN
THE BEAST GIVES ME A PARTING SHOT, SOMETHING TO REMIND ME WHICH OF US IS ARMED.
BUT I MANAGED TO GET IN A FEW LICKS OF MY OWN
NEITHER OF US HAS CAUGHT OUR BREATH YET, BUT THAT DOESN'T STOP THE ASSASSIN
THAT'S A MISTAKE THAT WILL COST HIM
I USE HIS OWN MOMENTUM TO TWIST HIM AROUND
THE BLADE DIGS DEEP INTO THE WALL.
I KNOW THE BEAST WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING IT OUT
17


SO I SHATTER IT BEFORE HE GETS THE CHANCE
THE BEAST RETURNS THE FAVOR BY TEAR-GASSING ME. FORTUNATELY, I SEE IT COMING
SSSST
I MANAGE TO GRAB A LUNGFUL OF AIR. KNYAZEV PROBABLY HAS NOSE FILTERS.
THE BEAST TAKES FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE GAS.
I FEEL A COUPLE OF MY RIBS GO.
ONLY MY TRAINING AND REFLEXES SAVE ME FROM A FRACTURED SKULL.
MY LUNGS ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO BURN.
THE BEAST GETS OVERCONFIDENT AND SLOPPY.
I USE HIM TO FAN AWAY THE GAS.
I HOPE TO FIND THE BEAST SPRAWLED AGAINST A WALL WHEN I EXIT THE GAS CLOUD.
NO SUCH LUCK. HE'S AS AGILE AS A JUNGLE CAT.
18

KNYAZEV DECIDES TO RABBIT
HE OBVIOUSLY HOPES TO SET UP ANOTHER AMBUSH
HE LEAPS DOWN TO THE LOWEST AND OLDEST SECTION OF THE SYSTEM.
FORTUNATELY, I HAD A CASE THAT BROUGHT ME DOWN HERE BEFORE
I HAVE THIS SECTION OF PIPES AND PASSAGES MEMORIZED.
THAT'S HOW I KNOW ABOUT THE BACK DOOR
HE HEARS ME LAND AND REACTS INSTANTLY
LUCKILY, I'VE FAIRLY QUICK REFLEXES MYSELF
IT'S ALMOST OVER
THE BEAST IS RUNNING OUT OF PLACES TO ESCAPE TO
HE SPOTS THE DOOR, JUST AS I EXPECTED
I DON'T RUSH IN AFTER HIM.

NO WAY OUT.
IT'S A CUL-DE-SAC.
TRAPPED!
WELL, MY WORTHY OPPONENT... A TIME OF RECKONING IS UPON US.
TIME FOR US TO FIND OUT WHICH OF US IS THE BEST...
...THE BEST AT THIS GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
COME! LET US PLAY OUT THIS BLACK GAME!
WHY SHOULD I?

A FEW YEARS AGO I WOULD HAVE JUMPED AT THIS CHANCE TO TEST MYSELF AGAINST YOU.
BUT TIME HAS TAUGHT ME MANY VALUABLE LESSONS.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR ME TO RISK MY LIFE COMING IN THERE AFTER YOU.
IT WOULD NEITHER ACCOMPLISH NOR PROVE ANYTHING WORTHWHILE.
SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO ASSUME THE RULES.
SOMETIMES CIRCUMSTANCES ARE SUCH THAT THE RULES ASSERT JUSTICE.
I'M NOT IN THIS BUSINESS TO PROTECT THE RULES. I SERVE JUSTICE.

I BROUGHT YOUR AGENTS BACK.
WHAT ABOUT THE BEAST?
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT HIM ANYMORE.
YES.
WHAT ABOUT THE PRESIDENT?
ARRIVED BY LIMO, RIGHT ON TIME. CAME IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE.
YOUR REAGAN IMPERSONATOR VANISHED DURING THE CONFUSION AFTER THE SHOOTING.
THOSE WERE HIS INSTRUCTIONS.
GOOD-BYE, BUNDY.
THANKS FOR WAITING AROUND FOR ME, ALFRED.
WHERE TO, SIR?
HOME.
I'M TIRED AND HURTING. AND PLEASE...
... GET RID OF THAT SILLY MASK.
I'M JUST NOT IN THE MOOD.
YES, SIR.
END

DURING THE WANING DAYS OF THE SOVIET EMPIRE, A RENEGADE RUSSIAN AGENT KNOWN ONLY AS THE KGBEAST COMES TO GOTHAM. HIS MISSION: ASSASSINATE TEN PEOPLE VITAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE STAR WARS SYSTEM. CAN EVEN THE DARK KNIGHT STOP THIS INHUMAN KILLING MACHINE?

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